



September 18, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The members of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) urge Congress to swiftly pass a full five-year Farm Bill. NASDA members are the chief state agriculture officials from every region of the country and are keenly aware of the significant challenges facing America's farmers and ranchers. We are particularly concerned about the serious impacts of Congress not passing a Farm Bill prior to the expiration of the current bill later this month. In the absence of Congress passing a full five-year Farm Bill, agricultural producers face tremendous uncertainties about their ability to continue to produce a safe and abundant supply of food, fiber and fuel.

As we gathered this week for NASDA's annual meeting, the urgent need for Congress to pass a five-year Farm Bill was crystal clear. From the farmers and ranchers who are struggling through disastrous drought, to those facing increasing challenges in the dairy industry, agricultural producers nationwide need certainty about national agricultural policy.

Without a Farm Bill, farmers will face significant challenges securing financing for planting next year's crop, vital safety-net programs for dairy producers will lapse, livestock producers in drought-stricken regions of the country will be left without important disaster assistance, and important export promotion programs will be frozen. The uncertainty facing our farmers, ranchers, and rural economies compels swift and decisive action by Congress to pass a five-year Farm Bill. We stand ready to work with you to ensure America's agricultural economy remains strong.

Sincerely,

Steve Troxler

President, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
Commissioner, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

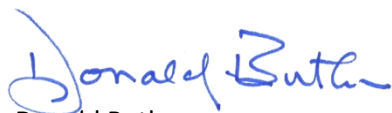
John McMillan

Commissioner, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries



Fanci Havemeister

Director, Alaska Division of Agriculture



Donald Butler

Director, Arizona Department of Agriculture



Butch Calhoun

Secretary, Arkansas Agriculture Department



Karen Ross

Secretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture



John Salazar

Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture



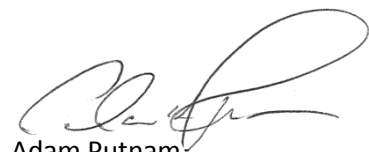
Steven Reviczky

Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture



Ed Kee

Secretary, Delaware Department of Agriculture



Adam Putnam

Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services



Russell Kokubun

Chairperson, Hawaii Department of Agriculture




Celia Gould

Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture



Bob Flider

Acting Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture



Bill Northey

Secretary, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship



Dale Rodman

Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture



Michael Strain

Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry



Earl "Buddy" Hance

Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture



Jamie Clover Adams

Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



David Frederickson

Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture



Cindy Hyde-Smith

Commissioner, Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce



Jon Hagler

Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture



Ron de Yong

Director, Montana Department of Agriculture



Greg Ibach

Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture




Jim Barbee

Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture



Lorraine Merrill

Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food



Jeff Witte

Director/Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture

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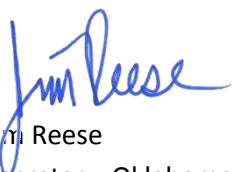
Darrel Aubertine

Commissioner, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Goehring".

Doug Goehring

Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Reese".

Jim Reese

Secretary, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Coba".

Katy Coba

Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George D Greig".

George Greig

Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hugh Weathers".

Hugh Weathers

Commissioner, South Carolina Department of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walt Bones".

Walt Bones

Secretary, South Dakota Department of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonard M. Blackham".

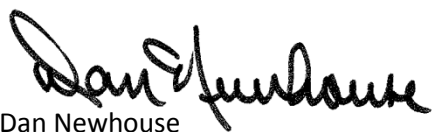
Leonard Blackham

Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food



Chuck Ross

Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets



Dan Newhouse

Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture



Gus Douglass

Commissioner, West Virginia Department of Agriculture



Jason Fearneyhough

Director, Wyoming Department of Agriculture

cc: Chairman Frank Lucas, House Committee on Agriculture
Ranking Member Collin Peterson, House Committee on Agriculture
Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Ranking Member Pat Roberts, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Members of the U.S. House of Representatives